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Israel Claims 7 Syrian Jets, Without Any Losses, in Biggest Air Battle Since 1967 War

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Seven Syrian MIGs were shot down today in a 30-minute air battle over the Golan Heights, an Israeli military spokesman said. No Israeli losses were reported. The air battle was the biggest fought since the Six-Day War. The air clash brought to 38 the number of Arab planes shot down since 1967. Syria admitted today the loss of three and said Israel lost four in the battle.

The dogfight took place between 10,000 and 13,000 feet above the Heights along the Israeli-Syrian border after the Syrian planes were sighted over Quneitra. Israel claims to have shot down 25 Egyptian warplanes since the war as well as 12 Syrian jets. Israel has lost three jets since 1967. It downed nine Egyptian MIGs in the last 11 days and claims there have been no Israeli planes lost since May 1. Since that date, 12 Egyptian planes and nine Syrian fighters have been destroyed.

Egyptian Partial Mobilization Reported Along With Reserve Call-Up

LONDON, July 8 (JTA) -- Egypt was reported today to be calling up its military reserves and to have ordered a partial mobilization. The reports, emanating from Arab diplomatic sources, did not indicate the size of the call-up but said the mobilization included amphibious training on the Nile River and was accompanied by a continuing purge of Egyptian Air Force officers. Convoys of heavy arms trucks and trailers loaded with military equipment under blankets were reported to have passed through Cairo suburbs yesterday on the way to the Suez Canal.

According to the informants, Egyptian soldiers were crossing the Nile in rubber boats apparently practicing for a large scale crossing of the Suez Canal. Scores of Air Force officers were said to have been pensioned off--in effect purged--since June 24 when President Gamal Abdel Nasser ousted his Air Force commander, Maj. Gen. Mustafa Shalabi El-Henawi and the chief of air defense, Maj. Gen. Hassan Kamel. The purges were said to have been prompted by the continued low state of efficiency of the Egyptian Air Force despite the fact that it has been completely re-equipped by Russia since its destruction by Israeli jets in the opening hours of the June, 1967 Six-Day War.

President Nasser was said to have been infuriated by regular Israeli penetrations of Egyptian air space without opposition. Israeli jets flew over Egypt for 20 minutes on June 17 and buzzed Cairo for six minutes while no Egyptian jets were sent up to intercept them. There have also been reports of serious training accidents in the Air Force. Egyptian leaders are said to be deeply disturbed with the condition of their Air Force since they are convinced that air power will be the decisive factor in any new war with Israel.

'Long Hot Summer' Seen On Cease-Fire Lines; Nasser Said To Be Caught In Squeeze

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- A high ranking Israeli military officer assessed the situation along the various cease-fire lines today and predicted "a long hot summer" especially in the Suez Canal sector. The officer, who preferred not to be identified, said Israel's recent commando sorties against strategic targets deep inside Egypt were not retaliatory attacks but measures taken to discourage increased aggression by the Egyptians. So far, they have been successful.

According to the officer, President Gamal Abdel Nasser is caught in a three-way squeeze between the Egyptian military, politicians and the public at large. The Army officers in Cairo insist that the Egyptian Army is fully recovered from its defeat in the June, 1967 Six-Day War and demand action. The politicians are demanding military action because they see no political solution in sight acceptable to Egypt. And the Egyptian public, inflamed by stories of alleged Arab guerrilla successes along the Jordanian and Syrian cease-fire lines, are urging the Egyptian Army to drive the Israelis out of the Sinai Peninsula.

In these circumstances, the Israeli officer said, President Nasser must create an impression of militancy and is trying to do so by continuous shelling of Israeli positions on the canal's east bank and by commando and mine-laying expeditions into the Israel-held Sinai. But Israeli counter-action has deterred him from any large scale operations, the officer said. Surprise commando attacks deep in the Nile Valley and uncomfortably close to the Aswan Dam have taught President Nasser that Egypt would have to pay an exorbitant price if it precipitated a large scale battle with Israel.

The officer said the situation on the Lebanese border was quiet despite the presence of 600-800 Arab guerrillas in southern Lebanon. He said that if that border "warmed up" appropriate counter-measures would be taken.

Israelis Claim 9 Egyptians Are Killed In Abortive Raid At Suez Canal

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- Israel claimed today that nine Egyptian commandos were killed in an abortive raid on an Israeli position on the east bank of the Suez Canal last night and that nine other Arabs, described as saboteurs, were slain in two encounters with Israeli forces in the Jordan Valley. No Israeli casualties were reported in either of the actions. The Israeli and Egyptian accounts of the

Suez raid differed. An Israeli military spokesman said the Egyptians crossed the canal near Ismailia under cover of a heavy artillery barrage but were detected and repulsed as they approached the perimeter of the Israeli position. He said the raiders left nine bodies behind when they retreated.

But Cairo radio claimed today that Egyptian commandos had killed 30 Israeli soldiers and wiped out an Israeli rocket site. The Egyptians conceded the loss of five men but alleged that their forces destroyed two trucks, a tank and all of the rockets in a five-hour battle.

According to an Israeli military spokesman, the Jordan Valley actions occurred before midnight near Umm Sidra pass where seven saboteurs were killed and near Umm Tutz pass where two more lost their lives. He said the attempted infiltration for sabotage purposes apparently followed a "green light" given by King Hussein of Jordan to the guerrillas once repairs were completed on Jordan's East Ghor irrigation canal. The canal was sabotaged by Israeli commandos recently in retaliation for attacks on Israeli settlements from Jordan. The Jordanian attacks tapered off afterwards and Israeli troops permitted Jordanian workmen to repair the canal. The spokesman said King Hussein promised the guerrillas continued support but asked them to establish bases in Israel-held territory rather than attack Israel from Jordanian bases. He said that large quantities of fire arms and explosives were found with the slain saboteurs.

Two Israeli settlements in the northern Beisan Valley south of Lake Tiberias were hit by Katyusha rocket fire last night. The targets, Shaar Hagolan and Deganya Bet, sustained some damage but no casualties were reported.

State Department Deplores Violations Of Cease-Fire By Both Sides

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA) -- State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said today that the U.S. Government deplored violations of the UN cease-fire by both Arabs and Israel. He said that the U.S. Government was counselling restraint to both parties. He indicated that the U.S. was disturbed especially about developments in the Suez area. Apparently side-stepping a question about what was being done to dampen down friction, he said the U.S. was engaged in bilateral talks with the Soviet Union and also was a party to the Four Power talks at the UN.

Sisco Voices Hope That Thant Will Not Withdraw UN Observers From Suez Cease-Fire Line

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA) -- Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph Sisco referred to the Middle East as a "high risk" area but said he hoped Secretary-General U Thant would not withdraw the 90-95 unarmed United Nations cease-fire observers from the Suez Canal. Mr. Sisco spoke in reply to questions on the NBC television "Today" show on the eve of his departure for Moscow where he will resume bilateral talks with Soviet officials on a solution to the Mideast conflict.

Mr. Thant said in a report to the Security Council yesterday that "open warfare" is once again raging in the Suez and that he might have to withdraw the observers from seven countries, because they are "defenseless targets in a shooting gallery." Mr. Sisco said that the observers were performing a very useful job of reporting incidents and he hoped they would remain.

Mr. Thant emphasized the increased firings on the observers, coming particularly from the Egyptian side, and said that they demonstrated the prevailing disregard for the cease-fire established by the Security Council in June, 1967. Mr. Thant also appealed to "all the parties alike" to honor the cease-fire resolution and urged all UN members to exert every effort toward promoting peace. "This is in the vital interest of the whole world," he declared. Two of the observers have been injured, Mr. Thant noted in his report which said they are continuously exposed to steadily increasing cross-fire. (Israel Foreign Ministry sources responded by suggesting that Mr. Thant direct his warning of possible war along the canal to Egypt.)

Mr. Sisco's visit to Moscow was described by the State Department as a "brief round" in the bilateral U.S.-Soviet talks on the Middle East after which the talks would revert to Washington. The diplomat will stop off at London and Paris en route to the Soviet capital. He said on the "Today" show that "some progress" had emerged from his previous talks here with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin but that there was "a long way to go" before the gap was narrowed. He said the U.S. and Russia hoped to come closer together on the Mideast so that direct talks could be held by the parties directly concerned.

(Premier Golda Meir said in the Knesset today that from Israel's point of view, the only satisfactory aspect of Mr. Sisco's Moscow visit is that it will be a short one. She welcomed Washington's announcement that it had no intention of transferring the bilateral consultations permanently. Mrs. Meir said Israel was especially disturbed by the prospect of talks in Moscow because there is no Israeli diplomatic representation in the Soviet capital and Israel would be completely isolated from developments.)

(The British Foreign Office today expressed agreement with Mr. Thant's grim assessment. It issued a statement saying, "U Thant's warning confirms our impression that there has been a deplorable increase in incidents along the cease-fire lines with the consequent danger of escalation. This points out still again the urgent need for a settlement and for restraint by both sides.")

Mrs. Meir Stalks Out Of Rafi Meeting After Being Accused Of Bias Against Rafi Members

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- Premier Golda Meir angrily stalked out of a rally of members of the Rafi faction of the Israel Labor Party here last night after one delegate accused her of bias against Rafi followers. The rally was attended by several thousand supporters of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Mrs. Meir appeared at her own request to appeal for Labor Party unity and urged the Rafi members not to break away from its ranks.

She exhorted the delegates, "in the name of Zionism and the ideals of the labor movement," to remain within the Labor Party and claimed that to split away would be "an unforgiveable luxury" for which "everybody would be ashamed."

Gen. Dayan had told his followers earlier that while he had serious grievances against the Labor Party leadership, he had no intention of leaving the party or creating a new political faction. Mrs. Meir's appeal for unity was also supported by Minister of Information Israel Galili. Gen. Dayan rejected supporters' proposals that he run for the Premiership on a separate ticket.

During the discussion a Rafi delegate charged that Rafi members would be subordinated after the Oct. 28 Knesset elections and accused the Premier of opposing the reappointment of Gen. Dayan as Defense Minister. Mrs. Meir took the remarks as a personal insult and walked out despite Gen. Dayan's plea that she remain. She was accompanied by Mr. Galili.

The Rafi leadership will meet shortly to decide on their future course of action but it appeared today that a split was averted, at least for the time being. The Rafi followers are bitter against the party leadership for allegedly excluding them from deliberations on election strategy. Gen. Dayan said yesterday that Rafi members felt like "second class" members of the Labor Party. The Labor Party was formed last year by the merger of Rafi, Achdut Avodah and Mapai. Rafi was created several years ago when a faction within Mapai broke away under the leadership of former Premier David Ben-Gurion who disagreed with the policies of his successor, the late Premier Levi Eshkol. Opinion polls published here indicated that a list headed by Gen. Dayan could poll up to 30 percent of the vote in October.

Dr. Goldmann Will Visit Australia For Conference Of Southeast Asia Jewish Leaders

MELBOURNE, July 8 (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, will make his first visit to Australia later this year to attend the Southeast Asian Conference of Jewish Communal Leaders. The conference will be held in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra from Nov. 30 to Dec. 5. Dr. Goldmann's planned visit was inspired by renewed WJCongress interest in Pacific and Southeast Asian Jewish communities. The Congress considers these communities among the most isolated Jewish population centers in the world. One of the purposes of the conference is to bring these Jewish communities closer together. So far, few of the leaders representing the communities have indicated their willingness to attend the conference.

Pavilion Of Judaism Opens Again At Montreal Exposition, Offers New Features

MONTREAL, July 8 (JTA) -- The Pavilion of Judaism at the Man and His World Exposition here, introduced at Expo '67, has been opened for its third season. It will be open through Sept. 7. Highlighted is a display of books, music, art and miniature reproductions, including one of the Second Temple. Material is in English, French, Yiddish and, in some areas, Hebrew.

New exhibits include woodcuts depicting life in Nazi concentration camps and an art exhibit from the Pucker Safrai Gallery of Jerusalem and Boston. There is a slide exhibit of tales of Chelm and live presentations of the stories of Sholem Aleichem as well as dramatic excerpts from a shtetl wedding, poetry readings, discussions by Canadian Jewish poets, and folk, classical and liturgical concerts. Funds for the continuation of the pavilion were raised by the Allied Jewish Community Services of Montreal.

Sociologist To Study Jews, Other Toronto Ethnic Groups On \$118,000 Grant

TORONTO, July 8 (JTA) -- A York University sociologist has received a \$118,000 grant to study Jews, Italians, Germans and Slavs--the four largest ethnic groups living in metropolitan Toronto. The grant to Dr. Anthony Richardson was made by the Canada Council. It is the largest single grant yet made for studies in social science and will be used to compare the ethnic groups with native-born Canadians of Anglo-Saxon background. One of the subjects of the study will be a measurement of the tendency of Anglo-Saxon Canadians to move from a neighborhood that has been identified as an ethnic enclave. The study will also measure the tendency of skilled middle class immigrants to move directly into suburbs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BUENOS AIRES, July 8 (JTA) -- Two high-ranking officials of the Roman Catholic Church visited Israel Expo-69 here and toured the \$2 million Israeli trade and industrial fair accompanied by its director Eli Dayan. The Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Antonio Cardinal Caggiano, and Bishop Ernesto Segura were especially interested in a display of Jewish and Christian religious ritual items from Israel. Mr. Dayan presented the Cardinal with a medal coined on the occasion of the visit of Pope Paul VI to the Holy Land in 1964 and a Torah scroll.

MEXICO CITY, July 8 (JTA) -- A book deemed anti-Semitic by many Jews here is being used as a text by some Mexican private schools, it was reported by the Journal Sucesos Para Todos (Events For All). The book, titled America Peligra (America In Danger) was written by Salvador Borrego, a journalist.

Pompidou Will Preside At Ministerial Session On Friday To Re-Examine Embargo Issue

PARIS, July 8 (JTA) -- President Georges Pompidou will preside at a special session of a ministerial committee on foreign affairs Friday to re-examine the political and economic consequences of France's embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel, it was announced today. M. Pompidou is also scheduled to hold his first Presidential press conference on the same day. He is expected to indicate then what France's future Middle East policy will be.

The ministerial committee meeting will be attended among others by Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas, Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann and Defense Minister Michel Debre. Israel's Ambassador to France, Walter Eytan, is scheduled to meet with M. Schumann on the eve of the committee meeting. It will be the first high level Franco-Israeli diplomatic contact since the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Jewish Agency Executive Acts To Implement Decisions Taken By Zionist General Council

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency Executive moved last night to implement the decisions taken by the Zionist General Council (Actions Committee). They include a major reorganization of the World Zionist Organization and preparations for the next World Zionist Congress which, the General Council decided, will be held within two years.

The Executive appointed a committee to work out details of the reorganization plan. The plan calls for the establishment of a Jewish Agency Assembly as the supreme governing body. It will consist of up to 250 members of whom half will represent the World Zionist Organization and Israel and half Jewish bodies abroad. Thirty percent of the latter will represent major fund-raising bodies in the United States and will be named by the United Israel Appeal. The remaining 20 percent will come from other countries outside of Israel; a committee will be set up to apportion seats between fund-raising bodies and community organizations in the latter category.

The Assembly will establish a board of governors which will provide the Jewish Agency with authority for its day to day activities and determine its budget to be approved by the Assembly. The Executive will be elected by the Assembly on the 50-30-20 basis. The Executive also decided last night to establish a committee to organize elections for the next Zionist Congress.

At its closing sessions yesterday, the General Council called on Jewish and Zionist organizations abroad to make immigration to Israel their central concern. They were asked to render all possible assistance to Israeli emissaries sent abroad to promote immigration and to encourage visits to Israel by potential settlers and investors. The General Council also urged the Government to act to ease the severe housing shortage, which is a deterrent to immigration, and to take economic measures that will make it easier to integrate newcomers.

Israel Expected To Requisition Land Near Kfar Etzion Despite Arabs' Objections

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Israel apparently intends to go ahead with the requisitioning of 300 acres of West Bank land near Kfar Etzion, south of Jerusalem. The requisition order was issued last month but was suspended by Premier Golda Meir after protests by Arabs who own some of the land.

Deputy Premier Yigal Allon met with five Arab leaders from nearby Hebron today and explained that the requisition was motivated by security needs only. He said that part of the land was property of the Jewish National Fund and that the 32 Arab families affected by the requisition order would be compensated in full. Mr. Allon promised that land owned by the Waqf, the Moslem court, would be exempted as would be a Moslem monument to the prophet Zacharia.

Spectacular \$142,000 Fire Hits Eilat Harbor, Blamed On Overheating Of Chemicals

EILAT, July 8 (JTA) -- A spectacular fire in the harbor here yesterday destroyed export goods worth \$142,857, including chemicals and fertilizers. First reports indicate the fire was caused by chemicals which overheated in the 104-degree Negev sun, caught fire and exploded causing the huge fire which could be seen for miles. The El Fatah guerrilla organization issued a statement in Beirut claiming credit for sabotage.

Rabin To Attend Moonflight Launching; Astronauts Will Carry Psalm From Shazar

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA) -- Israel's Ambassador, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, has accepted an invitation from the U.S. Government to witness the launching of Apollo 11 from Cape Kennedy on July 16. The rocket will carry three American astronauts for the first attempted landing of men on the moon. Ambassador Rabin will travel to Cape Kennedy next week with other foreign diplomats who have been invited.

President Zalman Shazar of Israel will send a message in Hebrew and English to the moon with the astronauts. He was invited to do so by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency. The message is a quotation from the Book of Psalms: "Abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth."

Menashe Unger Dead At 69, Was Journalist And Authority On Hasidism

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- Menashe Unger, a journalist and authority on Hasidism, died here yesterday at age 69. He was a writer for The Day-Jewish Journal, a Yiddish daily here. Born in Austria-Hungary, and a onetime student at the University of Vienna and the Hebrew University, he was author of "Rabbi Israel ben Eliezer Baal Shem-Tov," a biography of the founder of the Hasidic movement. Other books by Mr. Unger, a member of the Hasidic movement, were "Social Origins of Hasidism," "The Book of Martyrs" and "Happy Holidays, Children," all in Yiddish.